

Simon Foster – Motivation Letter for PoAC Change Management Board

I came to be involved in e-Invoicing after receiving an invite from the Australian Government in Jan 2016 to participate in a consultation to design the first Australian eInvoicing Framework as part of the Digital Business Council (DBC). At the time, I had run my business, Squirrel Street (fka Shoeboxed Australia) for 6 years, as one of the earliest receipt scanning startups taking receipt & Invoice data and integrating it with small business accounting software via public APIs.

It didn't take long before I was sold on the future of eInvoicing and the benefits it would bring the Australian and global economy. Later in 2016 I joined the Board of the Australian Business Software Industry Association and was involved in the first tests of the new Australian standard that September. During 2016 & 2017, I was an active participant in a number of DBC Working Groups - including the local equivalents of PoAC and SML WG.

In 2018 I took on the role of ABSIA's e-Invoicing Lead, representing the Australian business software industry on the Digital Business Council itself, and being active in consultations with government and industry. In early 2019, Australia & NZ followed the lead of Singapore and decided to become Peppol Authorities. I was closely involved in this process, through government and industry consultations in both my professional and industry association capacities.

I have been an active participant in the Peppol International Invoicing prestudy & subsequent working group, and have presented on the International Invoice in Australia & New Zealand, as well as on the Peppol standards more broadly. Bringing Australian industry closer to the rest of the world via the Peppol community has been an extraordinary experience, and a great opportunity to learn from each other.

As a developer, myself, I am still directly involved in the technical aspects of Peppol e-Invoicing, assisting with integration projects, interoperability testing and determining how strange Australian tax variations can be mapped to the BIS.

In the role of CMB Member, I will seek to work across the PoAC and broader Peppol membership in the same way I have done in ABSIA representative roles – seeking feedback from all who are interested and support the work of the professional staff. I can bring the perspective of the “new Peppol world” to the PoAC CMB, along with deep technical expertise. I also spent the first 10 years of my career in Europe, so have a good understanding of the European consensus way of working.